(d) No, Sir.

(e) Development of ports is an on-going process. An amount of Rs. 1782.96 crore from public funds, comprising budgetary support from the Central Government and internal and external budgetary resources (IEBR) of the ports concerned has been allocated for development of the major ports of Kolkata, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Tuticorin and Ennore in the 10th Five Year Plan. Apart from the above, plans are in hand to develop facilities involving private investment to the tune of Rs. 1751 crore in these ports.

Setting up of Ship Building Hubs

3837. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up two ship building hubs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had asked the Hindustan Shipyard and Cochin shipyard to prepare plans to expand their current facilities and to set up green field building facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government is exploring the possibility of setting up two international size Shipyards in the country subject to favourable technical analysis and feasibility study.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However; a provision of Rs. 69.01 crores has been earmarked in the Annual Plan 2005-06 of Hindustan Shipyard Limited for upgradation of infrastructural facilities for shipbuilding and ship repair. Cochin Shipyard Limited is also exploring the possibility of capacity addition of the Shipyard. The Public Sector Shipyards would take decisions in their best commercial interest for their capital investments.

Land for Sethu Samudram Project

3838. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to implement the Sethu Samudram Project

some of the land in Railways custody which has not been in use for the last several years had to be transferred to the nodal agency of the project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the nodal agency for the said project has made any request to the Railways to transfer the said land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) It is proposed to develop an approach road from Kothandaramasamy Temple to Dhanushkodi in Rameswaram island to help in implementation and operation of the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project. Land area to the extent of 91.215 hectares under the ownership of Southern Railway is required for the purpose. The nodal agency, *i.e.,* Tuticorin Port Trust, has requested the Southern Railway, Madurai to transfer the said land for the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project.

Rest Houses along the National Highways

3839. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rest houses that have been constructed along National Highways in the country during the last three years;

(b) the location of rest houses already constructed/proposed to be constructed in the country State-wise; and

(c) the guidelines issued by Government to use these rest houses by the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) During the last three years, Government of India has not constructed/ proposed any rest houses along National Highways.

(c) The Ministry has issued guidelines for use of rest houses by public on payment of prescribed fee subject to the following order of preference for occupation:

(i) Ministers; Central & State, Speakers, Chairman and Deputy Speakers of Legislatures.

(ii) Government Officers (Gazetted) on inspection of the National Highways and District Collectors with their jurisdiction;